

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 10915 260043Z

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

FOR AMB VANCE (S/NM);

AEI PASS TO DEA ADMINISTRATOR BENSINGER

EO 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: SNAR MX

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT-ELECT JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO AND DURAZO

REF MEXICO 10832

1. DURING MY PRIVATE BREAKFAST WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT LOPEZ PORTILLO (JLP), HE HIMSELF RAISED DURAZO CASE, TELLING ME THAT OAJA PAULLADA HAD TOLD HIM OF OUR RECENT CONVERSATION (REF).
2. HE TOLD ME THAT HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH DURAZO DATED FROM EARLY ADOLESCENCE AND HENCE WAS MORE THAN FORTY YEARS OLD. DURAZO WAS ALWAYS A "WILD ONE", IMPETUOUS, ACTIVELY ATHLETIC, SOMEWHAT UNDISCIPLINED BUT BRAVE AND A TRUE FRIEND FROM ADOLESCENCE ON. DURAZO ADMIRERED LOPEZ PORTILLO, RECOGNIZING THAT HE HAD GREATER INTELLIGENCE AND WAS A ZWYBER SCHOLAR WHILE THEY WERE ALMOST EQUALS ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD; LOPEZ PORTCKLO OFTEN, VEXED HIM WITH GOOD ADVICE AND ON PREPARING FOR EXAMS; DURAZO OFTEN HELPED LOPEZ PORTILLO ON THE PLAY-GROUND AND IN PHYSICAL CONFRONTATIONS.

3. FROM THE BEGINNING HE RECOGNIZED THAT SOMEONE WITH DURAZO'S PERSONALITY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TYPE HAD TWO AVENUES OPEN TO HIM: A MILITARY OR LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MEXICO 10915 260043Z

ON THE ONE HAND AND THE RISK OF FALLING INTO ILLEGAL

ACTIVITIES ON THE OTHER. HE RECOGNIZED THAT LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES FREQUENTLY INTERTWINE, NOT ONLY IN MEXICO BUT IN OTHER COUNTRIES. THUS, WHILE HE WAS HAPPY THAT DURAZO HAD HAD A SUCCESSFUL POLICE CAREER HE WAS DISTRESSED, THOUGH NOT SURPRISED, TO KNOW THAT HE HAD SUCCEDED TO THE TEMPTATION OF INTERTWINING HIS POLICE CAREER WITH ILLEGAL BUT LUCRATIVE ACTIVITIES. IT WAS EVEN MORE DISTRESSING THAT THESE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES WERE IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD.

4. DURAZO HAD ACCOMPANIED JLP DURING THE ENTIRE CAMPAIGN AND WAS NOW ATTACHED TO HIS INTIMATE STAFF. HE COULD COUNT ABSOLUTELY ON HIS PERSONAL LOYALTY, CONFIDENT THAT DURAZO WOULD RISK HIS OWN LIFE TO SAVE THAT OF LOPEZ PORTILLO. THESE QUALITIES, PLUS A FORTY-YEAR FRIENDSHIP, WERE BEYOND PRICE; PARTICULARLY IN THE PRESENT CONDITION OF INSECURITY IN WHICH LOPEZ PORTILLO AND HIS FAMILY FIND THEMSELVES.

5. THUS, IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO KEEP DURAZO CLOSE TO HIM IN SOME SECURITY CAPACITY. DURAZO WOULD NOT BE WITHOUT SOME POWER AND INFLUENCE AS IT WAS IDLE NOT TO RECOGNIZE THAT PROXIMITY TO A PRESIDENT IN ITSELF PROVIDED THESE ASSETS BUT HE COULD ASSURE ME THAT DURAZO WOULD OPERATE ONLY UNDER SUITABLY CONTROLLED CIRCUMSTANCES. HE COULD ALSO ASSURE ME AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THAT THERE WOULD BE NO QUESTION OF GIVING DURAZO OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS IN ANY NARCOTICS-RELATED FIELDS.

6. HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED U.S./MEXICAN COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST NARCOTICS AND ASSURED ME THAT THIS WOULD BE CONTINUED WITH THE SAME OR GREATER VIGOR UNDER HIS ADMINISTRATION.

7. I THANKED LOPEZ PORTILLO FOR THE FRANKNESS WITH WHICH HE HAD SPOKEN TO ME ON THIS DELICATE SUBJECT WHICH AFFECTED ONE OF HIS OWN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND, IN FACT, HIS SAFETY. I WAS HAPPY THAT HE RECOGNIZED THE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MEXICO 10915 260043Z

FACT THAT OUR INTEREST IN DURAZO'S POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT TO THE NARCOTICS FIELD WAS A LICIT ONE AND I WAS GRATIFIED BY HIS EXPLANATIONS AND ASSURANCES. HIS UTILIZATION OF DURAZO'S TALENTS IN OTHER FIELDS WERE NATURALLY SOMETHING NOT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF OUR LEGITIMATE CONCERNS.
JOVA

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE AS RECEIVED. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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NNN

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